

# library wars

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Love & War



STORY & ART BY *Kiiko Yumi*

ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY *Hiro Arikawa*

# library wars



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Shojo Beat Manga

# library wars



Love & War



STORY & ART BY Kijiro Yumi ORIGINAL CONCEPT BY Hiroyuki Arikawa

## The Library Freedom Act

Libraries have the freedom to acquire their collections.

Libraries have the freedom to circulate  
materials in their collections.

Libraries guarantee the privacy of their patrons.

Libraries oppose any type of censorship.

When libraries are imperiled,  
librarians will join together  
to secure their freedom.







library  
warfare  
Library of Congress



A gentle  
hand that  
softly  
touched  
my head.

When I see  
him again,  
I'm going to  
tell him...

...that  
I've  
come  
this  
far...

...because  
of *him*.

You're  
my  
prince!

...KASA-  
HARA!!

Library  
Wars



# Library Wars

Love & War

CHAPTER 1

don't  
mean  
you,  
you  
big  
jerk!

Do  
om



EYES  
FRONT!  
TRAINING  
ISN'T  
OVER  
YET!

# Library Wars LONE&WAR Vol.1



Hope you enjoy the story!



# STAB

THAT BRUTE!  
HE'S ON A  
MISSION TO  
MAKE MY LIFE  
MISERABLE!



CORPORAL  
ASAKO SHIBAZAKI  
(IN TRAINING)

...AND BY  
"BRUTE"  
YOU  
MEAN...  
...INSTRUC-  
TOR  
DOJO?



THAT'S  
RIGHT!



CORPORAL  
IKU KASAHARA  
(IN TRAINING)



Selka  
31

Kanto  
Library  
Base

At the  
cafe.

HE NEVER  
DOES THIS  
TO OTHER  
GIRLS!

IT WAS  
JUST ME.  
ONLY ME!  
I DID PUSH-UPS  
WHILE EVERYONE  
ELSE JUST  
WATCHED.

THIS  
MORNING...

ENC.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
NOW?

WHAT  
IS IT  
NOW,  
KASA-  
HARA?

The  
last  
card!

Right now  
I am in the  
middle of  
on-the-job  
training to  
reach my  
ultimate goal.

My name's  
Iku Kasahara.  
I've been  
accepted  
into the  
Library Forces,  
which has been  
my dream  
for years.





THAT I'M  
A SHORT,  
MEAN  
MANIAC...

WELL,  
I'M GIVING YOU  
FAIR WARNING.  
I WON'T BE HELD  
RESPONSIBLE  
FOR MY ACTIONS  
AFTER WHAT  
I JUST HEARD.  
I'M HUMAN,  
AFTER ALL.

...



I WAS  
RIGHT THERE  
STICKING UP  
FOR YOU.  
♡



IS THAT  
WHAT YOU  
THINK OF  
ME?







The  
Media  
Betterment  
Act was  
passed in  
the last  
year of the  
Showa  
era.

It was the  
beginning  
of the  
book  
hunts.

*I got  
the  
job I  
wanted  
in the  
library.  
Now  
I am  
working  
hard  
every  
day.*

Dear Moon and Dad,

Hope this letter finds you well.

I am doing fine. I heard that  
the air in Tokyo was polluted,  
but it's not as bad in the  
Mitsushima area. I've gotten  
used to living in the dorm.

I got the job I wanted in the  
library. Now I am working  
hard every day.

THAT  
MEANS...

HER PARENTS  
DON'T WANT  
HER TO BE IN  
THE DEFENSE  
FORCE.

...

AND  
YOU'RE  
TOTALLY  
ON HER  
BAD SIDE.

MAYBE  
YOU SHOULD  
RECONSIDER  
YOUR  
METHOD.

IF SHE  
CAN'T TAKE IT,  
SHE CAN  
QUIT.

He looks  
a bit worried  
with  
himself.



They're on a mission to deny citizens their right to have access to free media.

The Media Betterment Committee was established in accordance with the Act. It seeks to exercise censorship over all media, including restricting offensive books.

Libraries are the only institution that can oppose their censorship.



The Library Forces were formed in Seika 16.

SO...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK OF  
HER?



Thirty  
years  
after the  
launch  
of the  
Media  
Better-  
ment Act,  
in Selka  
30...



..homi-  
cides  
committed  
in the  
course of  
the war  
were  
decrimi-  
nalized.

Working  
for the  
Library  
Defense  
Force is  
considered  
even more  
dangerous  
than being  
a police  
officer or  
in the  
army.





TH

AFTERSCHOOL  
COMBAT  
TRAINING

U  
D

My  
mind is  
made  
up.

I'm going  
to join the  
Defense  
Force.

IDIOTS.  
KEEP  
IT IN  
YOUR  
PANTS!!

I'm not  
there yet  
as long as it's a  
secret

As long  
as...

Try  
me. Me!

With a  
man...?

Kashara,  
no one  
wants to  
take you  
on.

That's  
been my  
goal  
since...

TRY  
A GUY.  
YOU'LL  
STILL  
WIN.



I'M NOT THAT DESPERATE. DON'T WORRY.



KASAHARA. TAKE ME ON. I CAN'T LET THEM DO IT.



Stupid ass!!!

YOU'RE SO MUCH SMALLER THAN ME.

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED, GIRL.

Well, I'm not that desperate either!



YOU SURE YOU CAN REACH MY COLLAR, GIRL?



I'm  
going  
down...!

START!

Whoa.

No  
way.

He's  
so  
solid...



YOU'RE  
ALL TALK  
UNTIL YOU  
**AT LEAST**  
KNOW HOW  
TO LAND.

His muscles  
are nothing  
like mine.

Phew—



**HMPH**

**TWITCH**

BUT I DON'T  
SEE YOU  
BRINGING  
ME DOWN  
ANYTIME  
SOON.

YOU'RE  
SO MUCH  
TALLER  
THAN ME.

Okay,  
that's  
how  
you  
want it,  
huh?



Bo

OF

Then eat this!!!

TH

UD

Zoom

IS THAT HOW YOU PLAY?

...ORAY...

YOU GOT YOUR WISH ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?

Gah!



ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?!  
LOOK WHAT  
HE DID  
TO ME.

BUT THE  
WAY HE  
HANDLED  
YOU TODAY...  
IT WAS SO  
IMPRESSIONING.

YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO'S  
UNBELIEV-  
ABLE.

A NEWBIE  
WITH THE  
NERVE TO  
DROP-KICK  
A RANKING  
OFFICER.

If he was  
serious,  
he could've  
snapped  
your arm.

HE WAS  
GOING  
EASY ON  
YOU.

We moved  
into the dorm a  
month ago.  
This trash-talking  
girl is my roommate,  
Shibasaki.

*And she's very pretty...*

HE'S A  
GENTLE-  
MAN.

GEE?  
HE HAS THE  
DECENCY TO  
TREAT A  
MONKEY AS  
A HUMAN  
BEING...

THEY WERE  
TOTALLY  
AGAINST IT, AND  
YOU WENT AND  
APPLIED  
ANYWAY.

HEY,  
YOUR  
PARENTS  
DON'T KNOW  
THAT YOU'VE  
BEEN  
ASSIGNED  
TO THE DF,  
RIGHT?

WHAT IF  
THEY COME  
TO VISIT  
YOU?

And she  
knows the  
library like  
the back of  
her hand.  
It's scary.

Ngh



So you could pretend when they're around?

LIBRARY TASK FORCE AGENTS DO LIBRARIAN TRAINING AND MILITARY EXERCISES.

I know they won't believe it.

Let me get you what you're looking for!

Usual personnel.

That's right.

My parents think I'm a normal librarian, not a CF agent.

This is what I've wanted for so long.

BUT THEY'RE A SPECIAL ELITE UNIT.

FAT CHANCE I'VE GOT...

Well, yeah.

There's nothing I can do...

LIBRARIAN SOUND

Librarians staff the libraries.

They don't participate in combat. It's the position most people prefer.



I've  
always  
liked  
reading.

Despite my  
parents' desire  
to raise me as  
the little  
princess  
they'd always  
wanted...

People  
said it  
didn't suit  
a tomboy  
like me,  
but I  
didn't  
care.

I was  
also an  
avid  
reader.

...I was always  
running all over  
the place with  
my three big  
brothers.  
I could never  
sit still.

WE'RE  
WITH THE  
MEDIA  
BETTERMENT  
COMMITTEE.

It  
was...

...the  
day  
that  
changed  
my life.

It was the  
fall of my  
senior year  
in high  
school,  
and one  
day I went  
to a local  
bookstore.

FINALLY!

OH









HEY.

I can  
only save  
this one.

They have  
absolutely  
no respect  
for books...

KIM KIM



WHAT'D  
YOU GOT  
THERE?



ANOTHER  
ONE.

ADD IT  
TO THE  
PILE.



NO...

GRAB

WH

OMP



Ow!

OKAY  
THEN,  
ARREST  
ME!

CALL THE  
POLICE!  
I'M A  
THIEF!

THEY'LL  
NEED TO  
KEEP THE  
BOOK AS  
EVIDENCE!!

OH

SH-  
SHUT  
UP!

LET  
GO!

WAK

VE





WHAT  
THE-?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
...?



I AM WITH  
THE KANTO  
LIBRARY  
FORCES.





...Wow.

He  
is a  
*hero.*

IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE LIBRARY  
FREEDOM ACT,  
ARTICLE 30,  
AND AS A  
SERGEANT IN  
THE LIBRARY  
FORCES...

...I AM  
EXERCISING  
THE RIGHT  
TO COLLECT  
THESE  
BOOKS!



They were gone, leaving all the books in the store.





...

...SOB

...



YOU  
PROTECTED  
IT.  
YOU TOOK  
THE RISK  
FOR IT.





THE  
COVER'S  
TORN.

I'LL  
GET  
YOU A  
NEW  
ONE.





IT'S  
OKAY.

I'LL  
BUY IT.

I  
WANT  
THIS  
ONE.

**YOU PROTECTED IT.**



They  
really  
think  
this book  
is a  
threat to  
society!"

That's  
the most  
ridiculous  
thing I've  
ever heard.

The  
supposedly  
"problematic  
phrases"  
weren't  
used in a  
hurtful  
manner.

I opened  
the fairy  
tale I had  
waited a  
decade to  
find...

It was  
full of  
warmth  
and  
love.

SHUT  
UP,  
IKU!!

OH  
NOO!!!

No,  
no,  
no,  
no!

...and  
protect  
books  
from  
being  
hunted.

How could  
I forget to  
*ask his  
name?*

I wanted...

I AM  
WITH THE  
KANTO  
LIBRARY  
FORCES.

...to  
be like  
him.

I wanted  
to work  
with him...



•

Nice to meet you  
I am Kiro Yuni.  
Thank you so  
much for picking  
up my first  
book ever.

I was so thrilled to  
debut in *Lala*,  
and now I've got  
a book being  
published!  
This is like  
a dream.

Every day I'm  
thankful for  
people involved in  
the *Library Wars*  
series.

It's been a lot of  
fun working on it.  
I hope you enjoy  
the book too!

•

•



SHUT  
UP,  
IDIOT.

Rg  
Rr 2

Later...

HE HAS  
TO BE  
GOOD-  
LOOKING.  
YES,  
I THINK  
HE WAS!

WOOF.  
I DON'T  
EVEN  
REMEMBER  
HIS  
FACE!

I took the  
exam to get  
certified,  
which would  
give me a  
leg up.

...I unsuc-  
cessfully  
tried to  
track him  
down.  
(He wasn't  
local...!)

I went to  
college on  
a track  
scholarship  
and studied  
to become a  
librarian.



YES,  
SIR.

ANY  
PARTICULAR  
REASON WHY  
YOU WANT TO  
ENTER THE  
DEFENSE  
FORCE?

INTERVIEW  
FOR NEW  
RECRUITS



...but I  
like to think  
that they  
respected  
my passion  
and that's  
why I'm  
here.

I was  
a senior  
in high  
school.

I was  
so sure  
of myself  
when I  
said...

He was  
so cool  
and self-  
assured.

"I want to  
protect  
books  
like that  
man."

KASHI-  
HARA.

YOU  
DROPPED  
YOUR  
TEXT-  
BOOK.

Maybe  
it was a little  
over the top,  
because they  
started  
laughing...



YOUR  
TEXTBOOK  
IS IN  
REALLY  
GOOD  
SHAPE.

THANK  
YOU.

ALMOST LIKE  
YOU'VE  
NEVER  
OPENED IT.

During a lecture...

Oh...

Don't  
you pay  
attention  
in class?

INSTRUC-  
TOR  
KOMAKI.

NOT A  
WORD  
TO  
DOJO.

TRY TO  
KEEP  
YOUR  
EYES  
OPEN  
NEXT  
TIME.

BO

OF

WHY DO  
YOU HATE  
HIM SO  
MUCH?



THINK  
ABOUT IT.  
WHY WOULD  
HE TREAT YOU  
DIFFERENTLY?



NO,  
HE  
DOESN'T.

I DON'T.  
HE HATES  
ME.



THEN  
HOW  
COME  
HE'S SO  
MEAN TO  
ME?

HE DOESN'T  
TREAT THE  
OTHER  
GIRLS  
THIS WAY.

IS IT SO HARD  
TO IMAGINE  
THAT HE JUST  
HAS HIGH  
HOPES FOR  
YOU?

YES,  
IT IS!



CIRCULING



...brush  
me  
off...?

Did  
he  
just...



IT'S DOJO'S FAULT.  
HE'S BEEN UNFAIR.

Is he  
mad?

I'M NOT  
ANGRY.



DO YOU THINK  
RUNNING IS LIKE  
TRAINING?

His touch  
reminded  
me...

A LITTLE  
HINT FOR  
YOU.

YOU  
USED  
TO RUN  
TRACK,  
RIGHT?

I haven't  
found  
the  
answer  
yet.

...a  
bit of  
fun.





On-the-job training begins.



Just my luck. My partner today is...

Female agents pair up with an instructor.

RIGHT BACK AT YOU, SIR.

YOU LOOK DISAPPOINTED.

It takes place at the Musashino Main Library, the nearest branch to the base. CDF agents use the buddy system.



Honestly, how can I get along with this guy, Instructor Komaki?







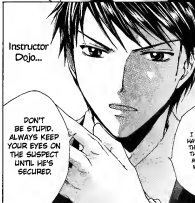
**BW**

Why  
...?

INSTRUC-  
TOR  
DOJO!!

**AM**





Instructor  
Dojo...

DON'T  
BE STUPID.  
ALWAYS KEEP  
YOUR EYES ON  
THE SUSPECT  
UNTIL HE'S  
SECURED.



DON'T  
TAKE THIS  
PERSONALLY.

I WOULD  
HAVE DONE  
THE SAME  
THING NO  
MATTER  
WHO IT  
WAS.



Turns out,  
he wanted  
the booty  
bonus  
on the  
magazine.

Blood.

If you  
want to  
play  
sports,  
quit.

It was  
censored  
and  
unavailable  
at local  
book-  
stores.

He was  
going  
to put it  
back after  
cutting out  
the juicy  
bits.

Pathetic!

He  
got  
whacked  
covering  
for  
me...

This  
job  
isn't  
for  
you.







SHE'S  
SO EASY  
TO READ.  
Oh well.



It could  
have been a  
lot worse.

What if  
I hadn't  
slapped  
away the  
knife?

He  
could  
have  
been...

I...

I'M  
GOING  
TO GO  
GET A  
JUICE!

KRAK



What...



NOT  
NOW.

What's  
he doing  
in the  
lobby?!!

TGA.

GO  
TO  
BED.



...LMA.  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TODAY...

SAVE  
IT.

That's  
not what  
I wanted  
to say...

No.

THIS  
FLOOR'S  
COMMUNAL.  
I CAN BE HERE  
ANYTIME I  
WANT.



*Do  
you  
think  
running  
is like  
training?*

SO  
I—

I can't  
hold it  
in.

Now  
I've  
found the  
answer.

He's  
the last  
person  
I want  
seeing  
me cry.

...I  
JUST!

I JUST  
DON'T  
THINK I  
DESERVE  
IT.



...doesn't  
mean  
I'm  
good  
at  
this...

This isn't  
a game.  
You don't  
just beat  
your enemy  
and score  
points.

I fell as  
soon as I  
reached  
the finish  
line.

But that  
wasn't the  
end.

They  
might  
come  
back at  
you.

IF YOU  
WANT TO  
PLAY  
SPORTS,  
QUIT.

Just  
because  
I know  
how to  
move...

This isn't  
like track.  
I can't give  
everything  
just to get  
to the finish  
line.

Because  
what about  
what  
happens  
next?

I'd be  
vulnerable  
to the  
next  
attack.





It feels so familiar.



That...

...tender touch.







YES.

He  
keeps  
me  
going.



IS  
THAT THE  
MAN YOU  
MENTIONED  
DURING  
THE INTER-  
VIEW?



IS HE  
WORTH  
IT?



That's  
when...

HE'S  
THE...

...MAN  
OF MY  
DREAMS.



...Instructor Dojo got a funny look on his face.

...



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE. I'LL DO THAT.

SIR.

DO WHAT YOU WANT!!

*Tap Tap Tap*

It was not...

...until much later...

...that I found out why.

I talked out and

I'll get a piece

...I FORGOT MY WALLET...

The day ended with me still looking like a complete idiot.

okay alert, tho.



## CHAPTER 2

More books are being banned every day.

In response to the state-mandated Media Betterment Committee's censorship...

...the libraries established self-defense units to protect books.



Woooooow  
Dajia



V.O.S  
Panel 1

HUH?

Really?

KASAHARA!

YOUR  
NOTEBOOK  
LEFT A  
MARK  
ON YOUR  
FACE!!

CORPORAL  
IKU KASAHARA  
(IN TRAINING)

IT'S TOUGH  
KEEPING UP  
WITH ALL  
THOSE CRAZY  
DETAILS.

THEY'RE  
WORKING  
IS REALLY  
HARD.

Who  
Amusing  
to  
play?

CAN'T  
YOU TRY  
TO STAY  
AWAKE  
THROUGH  
ONE  
CLASS?

IT'S ALL  
RIGHT.  
IT'S JUST  
THAT HE'S  
GOING TO BE  
ANGRY...

CORPORAL  
ASAKO  
SHIBAZAKI  
(IN TRAINING)

I work my  
butt off  
every day  
because I  
want to  
become  
like him.

The hero I met  
when I was in  
high school is  
the reason I  
joined the  
Defense  
Force.

... WHEN  
HE  
FINDS  
OUT!

SPEAK  
OF THE  
DEVIL...

HELLO,  
INSTRUC-  
TOR  
DOJO!

Instructor  
Kameg

Just a  
few  
days  
ago...









YOU'VE BEEN  
GUTE A SIGHT.  
I CAN HARDLY  
FOCUS ON  
TRAINING.



## OUR RECENT WORK



THEY'RE  
AT IT  
AGAIN

1. *Introduction*  
 2. *Methodology*  
 3. *Results*  
 4. *Discussion*  
 5. *Conclusion*

SERGEANT  
MIKHISA  
KOMARI



**Don't  
looked  
hundredfold  
can control**





WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

WHO...

...WHAT?

I SAID  
DOJO.

I would  
appreciate  
a kind,  
encouraging  
word instead  
of this constant  
verbal abuse.

DOJO  
WAS  
TOTALLY  
DONE IN,  
BELIEVE  
ME.

WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY

Major  
Ryusuke  
Genda.  
He's my  
partner today  
for security  
training.

YOU KNOW,  
AFTER THAT  
INCIDENT.

General

Colonel

Lt. Colonel

Major

Captain

First Lieutenant

Second Lieutenant

Master Sergeant

Sergeant

Corporal

Private

High

This  
will be  
on the  
test!

Here's  
a list of  
ranks.

He's the only  
instructor  
who's a major,  
and he's in charge  
of all of them.

In other  
words, he's the  
top dog!

We're  
all way  
low on the  
ladder, huh?

YOU  
WEREN'T  
BEING SMART,  
BUT IT WAS HIS  
RESPONSIBILITY  
TO LOOK  
AFTER YOU.

BUT IT  
WAS MY  
FAULT...

YOU'RE  
STILL A  
NOVICE.  
YOU'RE  
BOUND TO MAKE  
MISTAKES.

I PUT  
HIM IN  
DANGER!

Instructor  
Dojo...

YOU  
COULD'VE  
GOTTEN  
HURT.

DOJO HAS  
PLENTY OF  
REASON TO  
BLAME  
HIMSELF.

I  
SHOULDN'T  
BE TELLING  
YOU THIS.  
DOJO  
TOLD ME  
NOT TO.

YOU  
DON'T  
HEAR IT  
FROM  
ME.

Well  
anyway

He's  
hard  
to  
read.

I thought  
he was  
mad at me.

Sir.



When I was asked about doing a manga of the Library Wars series, I was more frightened than pleased. I am such a chicken. I have been fighting this chicken heart of mine all my life. Library Wars is my favorite novel. I am so grateful for this opportunity. I was so engrossed in the story I actually had trouble breathing. I've never read anything like it before!

This has been really great. I hope I can turn it into a good manga without ruining my excitement. It's a very hard and fun battle with myself.





TIME  
TO GO.  
GET  
READY.

KAGAHARA,  
DON'T JUST  
DISAPPEAR  
LIKE THAT.

I hope  
I didn't  
impose...

YES,  
SIR!

My first  
practical  
training.  
I was ready  
and raring  
to go!

We spent the  
latter half of  
the day out  
patrolling  
the streets.

THE MBC  
HAS YANG  
TO CARRY  
ALL THE  
ITEMS THEY  
CONFISCATE.

THAT  
MEANS  
TWO YANG  
PARKED  
TOGETHER  
SHOULD  
ALWAYS  
RAISE YOUR  
SUSPICIONS.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
THOSE?

IF THE  
WINDOWS  
ARE BLACK,  
IT'S  
DEFINITELY  
THEM...



HEADQUARTERS,  
THIS IS JENGA.  
WE'VE GOT  
ABC VANS IN  
THE VICINITY.  
OVER.



CLICK

YOU'VE  
GOT A  
QUICK  
EYE!

No  
It  
was just  
luc—



SLAP

GOOD  
JOB.  
WELL  
DONE.



CLICK

COPY  
THAT.

THEY'RE NOT  
LIKELY TO  
RAID TODAY,  
BUT TO BE ON  
THE SAFE SIDE,  
RAISE THE ALERT  
LEVEL BY ONE.



THEY  
KNOW  
WE'RE  
CHECKING.

WHICH  
MAKES IT  
HARD FOR  
THEM TO  
BLITZ US.  
SO...

BECAUSE  
THEY'RE  
TOO  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
LIBRARY.

WHY  
DO YOU  
THINK AN  
ATTACK IS  
UNLIKELY?







WE'D  
BETTER  
HURRY!

MY  
MONEY  
IS ON  
THAT.

THERE'S  
A BIG NEW  
BOOKSTORE  
THAT JUST  
OPENED NOT  
FAR AWAY  
FROM TOWN  
HALL.

...THEY'RE  
NOT HERE  
TO RAID  
THE  
LIBRARY.

THEN...  
...WHAT  
ARE  
THEY  
DOING  
HERE...?



WHERE?



WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN...?  
TO THE  
BOOKSTORE!

NO,  
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?





WE'RE  
NOT  
HEROES.

DON'T  
GET  
CONFUSED.



WE CAN'T  
JUST BARGE  
IN.

BOOKSTORES  
ARE  
DEMILITARIZED  
ZONES.



He's  
wrong.

IF WE STEP  
OVER THE LINE  
AND STRETCH  
THE LAW,  
THERE'S ALWAYS  
THE DANGER  
OF GETTING  
CITIZENS  
CAUGHT  
IN THE  
CROSSFIRE.

...NO.

OUR JOB  
IS TO  
PROTECT  
THE  
LIBRARY.

Not  
heroes.

Because...

**ZIP**

WAIT,  
KASA-  
HARA  
...!!

STOP...

**DR**

YOU TOOK  
THE RISK  
FOR IT.

He  
protected the  
book for me.  
What about  
him...?!

Then  
what  
about  
*him*?!!

YOU'VE  
FORGOTTEN  
WE HAVE  
THE RIGHT  
TO PUT  
BOOKS ON  
HOLD AND  
COLLECT  
THEM!

WHY  
ELSE DID  
WE SET UP  
THE RULES OF ENGAGE-  
MENT? VIOLATE  
THEM AND  
WE OPEN  
THE DOOR  
TO CHAOS.



So what  
he did  
wasn't an  
act of  
justice?

What  
am I going  
to tell him  
when I see  
him?

That I  
let them  
confiscate  
books right  
in front of  
me?





?!!

GIVE  
THAT  
BACK TO  
HIM!!

HE'S  
JUST A  
BOY!

That's  
not  
going to  
happen!!

I'M  
WITH THE  
KANTO  
LIBRARY  
FORCES!

I AM  
HERE IN  
ACCORDANCE  
WITH THE  
LIBRARY  
FREEDOM  
ACT,  
ARTICLE  
30...

PUT  
THE  
BOOKS  
BACK.

...AS A  
CORPORAL  
IN THE  
LIBRARY  
FORCES,  
TO PLACE  
THESE  
BOOKS ON  
HOLD FOR  
COLLECTION!

# BWA HA HA!



A HA HA HA HA

WHAT'S...

...SO  
FUNNY?

WHAT?

HA  
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA



YOUR  
A GRUNT  
GIVING US  
AN ORDER?

ONLY  
OFFICERS  
HAVE THE  
AUTHORITY  
TO DO  
THAT!

CLUNK

THE  
BOOK  
HAS TO  
GO.

Really  
?!! !





I know  
this arm.

...the  
arm  
of a  
hero.

It's...





TSK  
LET'S  
GO...!

DO YOU  
NEED  
ANYTHING  
MORE?



**Grip**

WE'RE A  
LITTLE  
LATE.

TWO  
SERGEANTS  
AND ONE  
MAJOR.



**YOU  
MORON  
!!!!**



SORRY ABOUT THAT. WE'RE DONE HERE.

UM... WHAT'S GOING ON...?

REFUGEE

TUNE

FUNE

It looks as if it's going to get it through your head!

This is totally beautiful!

It's in the back of the store



YOUR HERO WAS AN IDIOT, ALL RIGHT? AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN IDIOT GOES AROUND COPYING AN IDIOT??!

OUR RIGHT TO COLLECT BOOKS IS NOT SOMETHING A CLERK CAN ABUSE WHENEVER SHE FEELS LIKE IT!

Idiot?!

I MAY BE A LITTLE THICK, BUT LEAVE HIM OUT OF THIS.

IT INCLUDES PURCHASING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF COPIES.

WE HAVE BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS. DO YOU WANT TO BANKRUPT THE FORCE?

Stop up!

HE WAS JUST A RECKLESS HOthead. WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM!

...BUT...

IT'S WHAT HE DID!

STOP IT, STOP IT, STOP IT! HE'S MY PRINCE!!



A  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA



FORGET IT.

HA  
HA  
HA  
HA  
HA



That's  
my  
happy  
time!



DANZOU...!!

OK!

WIP



NEVER  
SEEN A  
NEWER  
RATTLE  
POJO!

I CAN'T.  
THIS  
IS TOO  
GOOD!

...  
SILENCE







THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH,  
SIR!



PRINCE  
SH?

SHE'S  
NOTHING  
OF THE  
SORT.

THERE  
GOES YOUR  
LITTLE  
PROTÉGÉ.



I HEARD ABOUT YOUR MISHAP YESTERDAY.

YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN?

YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.

The new recruit training is almost over.

YOU'VE BEEN SURVIVED TO THE COMMANDER'S OFFICE?

ANYONE DISAGREE?

HEY THERE, TROUBLE-MAKER!

POM





Oh, back  
off.

YOU THINK  
DOUG'S  
FINALLY  
GIVEN UP ON  
ME...?

**REALLLY?**  
DID YOU HEAR  
WHAT I SAID?  
I'VE BEEN  
SUMMONED.

THIS  
IS IT!  
THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
KICK ME  
OUT!!

I thought  
I was  
going to  
officially  
be a DF  
agent.

But...



HE SAID  
YOU'VE  
GOT WHAT  
IT TAKES.

HE WAS  
RATHER  
IMPRESSED  
WITH YOU.  
ACTUALLY.  
DID YOU  
KNOW THAT?

HEH?

REMEMBER  
THAT JUMP-  
KICK YOU  
SAVE HIM?

God  
help  
me!



COMMANDER

I'M  
STILL  
NERVOUS...

KASAHARA?

TIP

...IF HE'S  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
KICK YOU  
OUT.

SO  
GO UP  
THERE  
AND FIND  
OUT...



WHA...

WHO  
ARE  
YOU?

The  
same  
insignia  
as  
mine.



Yeah,  
I've heard  
that  
name.

WELL...

At the  
top of  
every  
class...

Tezuka...

I'M  
HIRAKI  
TEZUKA

I'M  
A NEW  
RECRUIT  
TOO.



WERE YOU  
SUMMONED  
TOO?



I HAVEN'T  
A CLUE WHAT  
THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT...  
I'M SO  
NERVOUS.

Huh?



He just  
gave me a  
nasty look...

Dir 1  
Imagine It

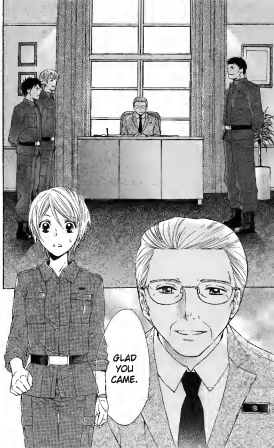
CORPORAL  
KASAHARA,  
SIR!  
MAY I  
ENTER,  
SIR?!

**CREAK**



CORPORAL  
TEZUKA,  
SIR.  
MAY I  
ENTER?









What?

IKU  
KASAHARA.  
HIKARU  
TEZUKA.

AS OF NOW,  
YOU TWO ARE  
ASSIGNED TO  
THE LIBRARY  
TASK FORCE.

YOU'VE  
BEEN  
REFERRED  
BY...

...MAJOR  
RYUSUKE  
GENDA.

...SERGEANT  
MIKIKO  
KONAKI...

...AND  
SERGEANT  
ATSUSHI  
DOJO.

APPROVED  
BY KAZUICHI  
INAMINE,  
THE  
COMMANDER  
OF THE  
KANTO  
LIBRARY  
BASE.

The  
Library  
Task  
Force...

A super elite  
squad of the  
very finest  
agents!

W  
H  
A  
A  
T  
?  
!  
!

WATCH  
IT,  
KUBA-  
HARU!



## CHAPTER 3





Shibasaki & the Friend Who Puts Up with Her





I am  
Iku  
Kasahara.

Today  
we're  
running  
exercises at  
the training  
grounds  
deep in  
Okutama  
Woods.

We're  
going to  
spend  
a month  
and a half  
in this  
wilderness,  
with  
mountains  
all around.

This  
is...



AND YOU  
HAVE BEEN  
SELECTED.

Calm  
down

TASK  
FORCE? IT'S A  
UNIT OF THE  
SELECT  
FEW...

AN ELITE  
SQUAD OF  
DEFENSE  
AGENTS...?

**TAP**

...part of  
basic  
training  
for the  
Library  
Task  
Force.

What  
?!!

YOU ARE  
ALSO THE  
FIRST  
FEMALE  
AGENT  
TO BE  
ASSIGNED.

THAT'S  
ALL THERE  
IS TO IT.

WHAT  
DO  
YOU  
MEAN?

OH

MAJOR  
ATSUSHI  
GENDA

SERGEANT  
MIKURISA  
KOMAKI

SERGEANT  
ATSUSHI DOJO

ALL TASK  
FORCE  
AGENTS  
HAVE  
EXTRA  
TRAINING  
HOURS!

INTENSE  
EXERCISES  
BEGIN  
TOMORROW  
IN OKUTAMA.  
PREPARE  
YOURSELF!

With no  
change in  
bosses...

AND  
I HEAD  
IT.

WE'RE  
THE  
TASK  
FORCE.

DEEZ...  
YOU'RE  
GOING  
TOO...?

...and still  
hanging on to  
my doubts,  
I was initiated  
into the Task  
Force...



But not  
everything  
is the same.

WOW!  
BULL'S-  
EYE,  
TEZUKA!



SHOOTING RANGE

Corporal  
Hikaru  
Tezuka.

He and I  
were the  
only new  
recruits  
assigned to  
the Task  
Force.



Mr.  
Overachiever  
has aced  
just about  
every subject  
so far.



NICE!  
DONE,  
HIKARU.

JUST  
NOW.



WOW.



...A TF  
AGENT  
CAN'T DO.



I CAN  
BARELY  
HIT THE  
TARGET.



I  
DON'T  
KNOW  
HOW  
YOU  
DO IT.



IT'S  
NOTHING...



What's  
up with  
that?!!



I'D  
LOVE  
TO  
KNOW...

...HOW YOU  
MANAGED  
TO MISS ALL  
YOUR SHOTS.



All right.

STOP,  
KASAHARA.

He got  
you there.

WAIT A  
MINUTE...



There're  
fifty agents  
on the Kanto  
Library Base  
Task Force.

For this  
exercise,  
just try to get  
all your shots  
somewhere on  
the target,  
okay?

That's  
a heck of  
the prize.

Keep  
your  
hands  
up.

The Task  
Force is  
divided  
into small  
teams,  
each with  
five  
agents,  
give or  
take.

That means  
Tezuka and  
I will have  
to work  
together  
even after  
training.

With  
Komaki  
as his  
assistant  
...

...Dojo  
leads my  
team.  
Tezuka's  
in it too.

**SILENT**

MORNING,  
TEZUKA!

So I'm  
hoping to  
get along  
with him.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHY  
YOU'RE  
HERE AT  
ALL.

You, ah  
Twenty years  
ago, Feb 7  
Sofia II.

How  
Night-  
mare?

TEZUKA,  
EXPLAIN TO  
HER ABOUT  
THE HIND  
NIGHTMARE.

resulted  
in Quebec  
council-  
Sofia...

I'm  
trying...

This  
is basic,  
Kazuharu

WHAT  
IS  
GOING  
ON?!

**SILENT**

TEZUKA  
TEZUKA

I'm trying  
really  
hard...!

GOOD  
NIGHT,  
TEZUKA...

**SNAP**





OKAY,  
HOW  
ABOUT  
THIS.



WHERE  
IS  
WHERE



HAVE  
I DONE  
SOME-  
THING?!

WHAT'S  
WITH  
YOU?



...AM I  
RIGHT?

YOU KNOW YOU  
DON'T CUT IT,  
BUT YOU THINK  
YOU CAN MAKE  
IT BY TRYING  
YOUR BEST  
LIKE YOU'VE  
ALWAYS DONE.

HUH?



GIVE ME  
ONE GOOD  
REASON  
WHY YOU  
DESERVE  
TO BE ON  
THE TASK  
FORCE.



...WHAT  
THE-?



YOUR PRESENCE  
HERE IS AN  
INSULT TO ME.  
YOU'RE  
LOWERING THE  
BAR FOR OTHER  
AGENTS.



TEZUKA.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
THINK OF  
KASA-  
HARA?

I  
hate  
him  
!!!

What's  
up  
with  
him?

He's  
the  
worst.

NOTHING.

I'M  
NOT  
INTER-  
ESTED.





...toward the end of  
the training period...  
...when I first saw  
Iku Kasahara.





I despise  
that  
type the  
most.

She  
can't  
work  
with  
compe-  
tent  
leaders.

Great physical  
strength for  
a woman.

What else has  
she got to offer?  
Nothing.

TAP

She's  
emotional  
and stupid...



She confronts  
Instructor Dojo,  
a man I respect,  
every chance  
she gets.



And somehow  
that simpleton  
got noticed  
and was  
recruited  
into the  
Task  
Force...

Along  
with  
me!

FWAN

Arm  
lock!

Damn...





KAGA-  
HARA...

READY.

That simpleton.

HOW  
CAN I  
GET OVER  
THAT...?





SOMETIMES  
THAT FEAR  
KNOCKS YOU  
OFF BALANCE.

*That  
scary  
jump*

YOU CAN'T  
SEE WHERE  
YOU'RE  
JUMPING.



HUH  
?!

NICE  
CLEAN  
JOB,  
KABA-  
HARA.

I THOUGHT  
YOU'D END  
UP UPSIDE  
DOWN.

*I was looking  
forward to  
that.*

CLEAN  
AS A  
WHISTLE!



UPSIDE  
DOWN?



WHAT'S  
THAT LOOK  
ON YOUR  
FACE?

WHA—?

YOU HAD  
PERFECT  
FORM.

WELL  
DONE.







Sometimes  
my artwork is  
hard to look at.  
I am kind of  
disappointed  
with myself.  
I feel pretty  
confident when  
I'm doing it...  
Why...?

I've been an  
assistant for  
nearly a decade  
and the  
opportunity to  
draw humans is  
an amazing  
experience for me  
(characters from  
my favorite series  
at that). It seems  
excitement doesn't  
necessarily  
coincide with good  
performance.  
Hopefully I can  
draw people much  
better. :)

It's almost  
my life goal.



Days have  
gone by and  
Tezuka and  
I still haven't  
resolved our  
differences.









This  
is so  
rough.

There's  
no trail.

I can't  
keep  
up.

The  
only  
comfort  
is...



TEZUKA!

HOLD  
KAGAMARI'S  
SHOVEL  
FOR HER.



...that Dojo's  
bringing up  
the rear,  
but...





WELL...

BUT...

YOU KNOW.



KASAHARA.

BREAK  
TIME.



BUT  
I'M STILL  
WORRIED  
ABOUT...

YES,  
GIRL.

YOU  
PICKED UP  
YOUR PACE  
HALFWAY  
THROUGH.

YOU  
ALL  
RIGHT?



THANK  
YOU,  
SIR.

He's  
trying to  
comfort  
me...



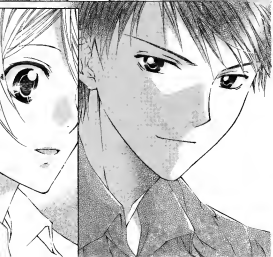
How  
absolutely  
crazy  
was  
that a life they  
get  
worried  
attention when  
they do  
nothing...



Oh.

THESE BEARS  
ARE MEEK.  
STAY IN A  
GROUP AND  
THEY WON'T  
BOTHER YOU.

AS FAR  
AS I KNOW,  
THERE'S  
NEVER BEEN  
A BEAR  
ENCOUNTER  
DURING  
TRAINING.







What  
am I  
thinking?



Sneaky  
and unfair.



I LIKE  
HIM,  
THOUGH.

HE'S  
OKAY,  
DON'T YOU  
THINK?

BREAK'S  
OVER.

EVERY-  
BODY  
GET  
READY  
TO GO.

...



He  
smiled  
at me.

That's...



WE DON'T  
DO SOLO  
ACTS  
HERE.

ISH

YOU'RE  
TOUGH.  
YOU'LL GET  
THROUGH  
THIS JUST  
FINE, BUT...

...JUST  
BE AWARE  
THAT THE  
SECOND  
HALF IS  
HARDER.

HAVE  
A GOOD  
REST AND  
PRESERVE  
SOME  
STRENGTH.

...Dejo.



YOU'RE  
FASTER THAN  
EXPECTED,  
WITH A GIRL IN  
YOUR GROUP  
AND ALL.  
GOOD JOB.

YOU'RE  
HERE,  
TEAM  
DOJO.

WE'RE  
HERE.

THIS  
CAMPSITE  
IS THE  
RENDEZ-  
VOUS  
SPOT.



Thank  
you...

Thank  
you for  
the  
information.

I just  
want to  
go to  
sleep!

Let's  
set up  
a tent.

I'm  
taking  
a look.  
Don't  
come over  
here.

Quickly...  
Let's  
set up  
camp.

IN THE  
WOODS





KASA-  
HARA?



INSTRUC-  
TOR  
ROOO.  
YOU  
THERE?

ISH  
ISH







HE'S GOT  
SOME  
WORK  
TO DO.



EVERYBODY  
THINKS HE'S  
SO SELF-  
CONTAINED.  
THE TRUTH IS  
HE'S AS EASILY  
PROVOKED AS  
KASAHARA.



IT'S  
WRITTEN  
ALL OVER  
HIS FACE.

YEAH.



TYPICAL  
STRAIGHT-A  
STUDENT.

HE HAS TO  
REALIZE  
THAT'S NOT  
EVERYTHING.

SAME  
THING  
GOES  
FOR...

...BOTH  
OF  
THEM.



That  
night...



Got  
into the  
morning  
bag by  
yourself

It's  
not  
fun

THEY'RE  
OPPO-  
SITES.

What's  
the  
matter?

WOULDN'T  
IT BE FUN  
IF THEY  
HOOKED  
UP?

THEY  
NEVER  
SEE  
EYE TO  
EYE.



It made  
me feel  
good...

He's such  
a jerk.  
It served  
him right.

...I had a  
strange  
dream.

Tezuka  
was  
screaming  
for his life,  
running  
from  
some-  
thing.

He  
looked  
so fright-  
ened.

**IT'S  
HERE!!**

**W  
A  
A  
A  
A  
H!**



Huh  
?!



What's  
here...?







① SPOOK THEM WITH A BEAR STORY.

Not my style.

IT'S AN INITIATION FOR...

...NEW TASK FORCE AGENTS.

MAJOR DENDA THOUGHT IT UP.

I never approved, but no one listens to me.

↓  
② THROW A DUMMY INTO THEIR TENTS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

A JOKE...?

☆ The dummy was a huge ball of weeds prepared by the other agents. ☆

How...

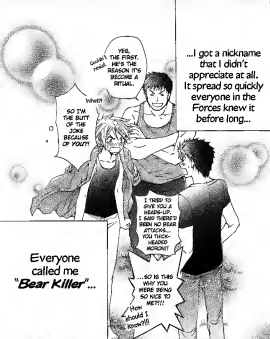
...IMMATURE!!

WE GIVE YOU A PROPER SCARE, YOU SCREAM, END OF STORY...  
THINK ABOUT IT.

Like Tsurika

FEELING UTTERLY HUMILIATED.





Yeah, the first. He's the reason it's become a ritual.

What?

So I'm the butt of the joke because of you?

...I got a nickname that I didn't appreciate at all. It spread so quickly everyone in the Forces knew it before long...

I tried to give you a heads-up. I said there'd been no bear attacks. You thick-headed moron!

...so is this why you were being so nice to me?!!

How should I know?!!

Everyone called me "*Bear Killer*"...



YOUR REACTION WAS NORMAL.

It's just that those two are a little unusual.

CHEER UP, TEGUNA.

## BEAR SURPRISE AND DOJO



Endo's  
and



Let's ignore the fact that it was all pretty...

• Komeki and Genie saw it



# CHAPTER 4

BEIJING MAIN LIBRARY

And the next challenge is waiting for us.

We're back from the training exercise.

We're assigned to work in the stack rooms in the basement of the library.

LIH-HUH.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE STACKS.

SERGEANT  
ATSUSHI DOJO

CORPORAL  
IKU KASAHARA

I HEARD THAT PEOPLE GO MISSING IN HERE.

IT'S BIG. THIS IS THE STORAGE VAULT FOR THE ENTIRE KANTO REGION.

THAT'S JUST AN URBAN LEGEND, RIGHT?

CREAK

YOU HAVE  
TO MEMORIZE  
THE LAYOUT OF  
THE ROOM AND  
LOCATE THE  
BOOK THAT'S  
BEEN  
REQUESTED.

THAT'S  
YOUR JOB.  
It's  
not  
begging.

What  
?!!!

NO,  
IT'S  
THE  
TRUTH.

Winner  
IKU...?

V.S  
Round 3

CHAPTER 4





The Task Force is the exception.

It's our duty to be ready for any eventuality. And that means we have to know how to perform all kinds of jobs.



I'LL EXPLAIN THE SYSTEM AGAIN. STARTING IN THE BACK.

...YES, SIR.

Normally, Defense Force agents don't have clerical duties.



PROP THE ATTITUDE, IDIOT.





Oh.  
His  
speaking  
nice  
and  
slow.

He's  
so con-  
siderate.



THAT'S ODD.  
BIBLIOGRAPHIES.



SORRY.  
WHAT WAS  
THAT AGAIN?  
STACK 2,  
SHELF 1..

Two  
shelves?



He's  
not  
a bad  
person...

Not  
on  
stack 1..

Some-  
times  
he  
picks  
me  
up,  
though.



Now that I  
think about it,  
he never  
pushes me  
away...

...when  
I'm trying  
to learn  
something.



IF YOU  
HAVE TIME  
TO LOOK  
AT THEM.

YES, GIRL!  
I CAN  
MANAGE  
WITH THE  
NOTES...

I THINK...

GOT  
THE LAY  
OF THE  
LAND?



THE  
LIBRARY  
OPENS  
SOON.



ASK  
TEZUKA IF  
YOU GET  
LOST,  
OKAY?



LOOK,  
KASAHARA.  
I WON'T  
REPEAT  
MYSELF.



09:59

BEER

☆ HOW THINGS WORK ☆



Soon enough...

...the stacks turned into a battlefield.



THIS IS THE FIRST CLERKING ASSIGNMENT FOR TEAM DOGO. ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES.

Y-  
YES, SIR.





I have  
no idea  
where  
this is.



TYPE: NOVEL  
NO. 00000  
DATE OF BIRTH:  
TITLE:  
AUTHOR: THE WHITE FOX  
EDITOR:  
LALA VELAZ  
CLASSIFICATION: 100

God.



There  
was no  
time to  
go over  
the  
notes!

I was  
buried  
in  
requests.

TEZUKA!



SORRY  
TO  
BOTHER  
YOU.  
WHERE'S  
7667?

STACK  
30,  
CRAFT?

YOU  
ALREADY  
ASKED  
THAT.  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

The stacks  
go on and  
on forever  
in this  
underground  
room.

It's  
like a  
maze.

Sorry,  
Hikaru.  
What  
about  
008-?

I  
already  
told  
you!

12:15

BEEP

THREE  
RETURNED  
BOOKS...

SOME  
PEOPLE  
COULDN'T  
WAIT AND  
HAD TO  
CANCEL THEIR  
REQUESTS.

Those  
complaints...

...and  
the reason  
everyone's  
so tired...

IT'S  
YOUR  
FAULT,  
ISNT/IT?

I spent  
too long  
looking for  
them...

Those  
three  
books.

IT'S  
LUNCH.  
LET'S GO  
OVER THE  
PROCEDURE  
AGAIN  
WHILE IT'S  
SLOW.

AND  
THERE  
ARE  
SOME  
COM-  
PLAINTS  
FROM THE REF-  
ERENCE DESK.



A TASK FORCE  
AGENT WHO  
DOESN'T EVEN  
KNOW THE BASIC  
CLASSIFICATIONS.  
GIVE A  
BREAK.



I WAS A  
**DEFENSE**  
**AGENT.**  
I DIDN'T  
PLAN ON  
DOING  
DESKWORK...



BUT I  
HAVEN'T HAD  
ANY FREE  
TIME...  
FIRST THE  
TRAINING  
EXERCISE...

AND  
NOW  
THIS...

YOU HAD  
TWO FREE  
DAYS!  
YOU CAN DO  
LOTS IN TWO  
DAYS!!

YOU'VE  
BEEN ON  
THE TASK  
FORCE FOR  
A MONTH  
AND A  
HALF.

YOU'VE HAD  
PLENTY OF  
TIME TO  
CATCH UP





THAT'S ENOUGH.



THAT'S RIGHT.

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE RIGHT DOESN'T MAKE IT OKAY.



I'm so embarrassed.

LET'S FIGURE OUT...

...HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS.



YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHEN I TELL YOU THE ANSWERS! IF YOU'RE SO SLOW, COME EARLY IN THE MORNING AND PRACTICE YOURSELF.



YOU DRAGGED US DOWN AND YOU'RE STILL MAKING EXCUSES.

...

NOT ONLY ARE YOU INCOMPETENT, YOU DON'T EVEN MAKE AN EFFORT! PEOPLE LIKE YOU SHOULD JUST KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT!

TEZUKA!!



LET'S  
GET THOSE  
REQUEST  
FORMS.  
KASAHARA,  
YOU CAN  
DO THEM.

IT'S OUR  
JOB TO HANDLE  
REQUESTS  
FROM OTHER  
LIBRARIES  
TOO.



He's right.  
All I did  
was ask for  
answers and  
expected the  
others to  
help me.

...YES.

GOT  
IT?

THE THREE  
OF US WILL  
DEAL WITH  
THIS LIBRARY'S  
REQUESTS AND  
ANYTHING ELSE  
THAT COMES  
UP.

TRY TO  
MEMORIZE  
THE CLASSI-  
FICATIONS.

YOU CAN  
WORK ON  
THEM ALL  
DAY, SO NO  
RUSH.



Tezuka isn't  
just smart.  
He works  
hard too.



HELLO,  
STACK  
ROOM.

...OH,  
IT'S  
YOU.

YES,  
SIR!



Hi there!

I'VE  
BROUGHT  
YOU THE  
REQUESTS.

SEND  
IN THE  
REQUESTS  
FROM THE  
OTHER  
BRANCHES.  
AND  
ANOTHER  
THING...

CORPORAL  
ASAKO SHIBAZAKI  
(IN TRAINING)



YOU  
NEVER  
DROP BY.  
I FEEL SO  
LONELY.

INSTRUC-  
TOR DADA I'VE  
MISSED  
YOU

?!  
SHIBAZAKI?



DON'T  
LAUGH.  
YOU'RE  
SO RUDE.

AH HA HA.  
DADA'S  
STAM-  
MERING.  
YOU DON'T  
SEE THAT  
EVERY DAY.

BUT I  
WANT TO  
HELP YOU!

IT'S HARD  
WORKING  
DOWN  
HERE.  
I CAN  
HELP.

NO  
REALLY!

NO  
THANKS

ARE YOU  
DONE?  
NOW GET  
BACK UP  
THERE!!

SHIBA-  
ZAKIT!

YOU  
HAVEN'T  
HAD LUNCH  
YET,  
HAVE YOU?

I STILL  
HAVE  
WORK...

CAN I  
BORROW  
HER  
FOR A  
MOMENT?

YES,  
SIR.

**TAP**

OH

BRING  
BACK  
SOMETHING  
FOR US.

STAG  
ROOM

*Alk*

UM?



I'M HERE  
BECAUSE  
DOJO  
ASKED.

I'm a fan.  
What could  
I do?

NOW.

LET'S  
GO.

WHY THE  
SUDDEN  
EDGE?

Cool.

TMD

TMD

WHAT  
...?

OH,  
HE SPOILS  
YOU TOO  
MUCH.



WHEN I  
GOT THE CALL  
ABOUT THE  
REQUESTS,  
HE ASKED ME  
TO TAKE YOU  
OUT FOR LUNCH  
WHEN I CAME  
DOWN TO THE  
STACK ROOM.

HE SAID  
TEZUKA  
TOTALLY TORE  
INTO YOU AND  
YOU WERE ON  
THE VERGE OF  
A BREAK-  
DOWN.

WAA...

YEAH.

Why  
didn't he  
tell me  
off?

It's  
harder  
when he  
keeps  
quiet  
like  
this...

I'm screwing  
up constantly,  
and Dojo  
always cleans  
up after me.

It's not just  
Tezuka.  
Those  
returned  
books...

...he  
saved  
me.

He  
helps  
me in  
lots of  
things!

...on the  
imperfect  
side

Maybe  
he likes  
his  
protégés..

Once  
again...

WAAH

THANK  
YOU FOR  
TAKING  
ME OUT,  
BUT IT WAS  
MY FAULT.

IT WAS  
SO HARD  
AND EMBAR-  
RASSING...!

DON'T  
THANK  
ME.

SHIBA-  
ZAKI.

WHOA.  
OFF.







Oh, the fatigue  
after I drew the  
stock room at the  
beginning of  
this chapter...!  
It's a good  
memory now...

It feels like  
yesterday that I  
started to work on  
this series. I hear  
the anime version  
takes off soon.

I am looking  
forward to starting  
up on this

Okay, then...

Thank you very  
much for reading  
this far!

Special thanks  
at the end  
of the book.

Kôji Yumi





BUT IN TRUTH,  
IT'S ALL ABOUT  
POLITICS.  
THINGS  
CAN GET  
COMPLICATED.

**MEDIA  
BETTERMENT  
COMMITTEE**  
An administration  
of the national  
government

**LIBRARY**  
Local government,  
independent from  
the national  
government.

THIS IS WHY  
THERE'S A WAR.

SO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
THAT THIS IS  
ALL A FIGHT  
BETWEEN LOCAL  
AND NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS,  
RIGHT?

HE'S NOT  
WELCOME  
HERE.

He's  
gone

NOT  
EVERYTHING  
IS BLACK  
AND WHITE.  
THERE'S  
ALWAYS  
SOMEONE WITH  
AN AGENDA.

EVEN THE  
LIBRARY HAD  
WALKED.

HE  
ANSWERS  
TO THE  
BOARD OF  
EDUCATION...

...AND HE'S  
INTENT ON  
REMOVING  
CONTRVERSIAL  
MATERIALS AND  
GIVING TO THE  
BOARD'S  
DEMANDS.

SO HE'S  
A BAD  
APPLE?

THAT'S  
RIGHT!



It's not  
easy being  
a librarian  
either.

And she's  
willing to  
make time  
for me.

I'm  
not  
going  
to fail  
her.

Do  
it for  
Shiba-  
zaki.

And  
for  
*him*.

WHAT?  
THAT  
JERK!!

THE LIBRARY  
IS THE ONE  
PLACE THAT  
HAS TO TREAT  
BOOKS  
FAIRLY!

Especially these days  
when we can't read  
what we want.

I  
THOUGHT  
THAT'D  
GET YOUR  
ATTENTION.

INSTRUCTOR  
POSSO...

TACK  
ROOM



UM...

FOR  
LETTING  
ME TAKE  
THE  
REQUESTS  
FROM  
OTHER  
BRANCHES



UM,  
I'M  
SORRY

I LET  
YOU  
DOWN...



THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH FOR  
THE OTHER  
DAY.



Good

It was  
great and  
overcome  
everything

Maybe  
I shouldn't  
mention the  
favor he asked  
of Shibasaki...  
It'd make him  
uncomfortable...





THAT'S  
MORE  
LIKE IT.



STAY MAD.  
DON'T FEEL  
SORRY FOR  
YOURSELF.



What  
is...



...my...

...best  
quality?



I keep moving forward...

That's...

...no matter how difficult it gets...

...the only good thing about me.



THEY TALK

THEY SEE

SHE'S GOT  
PIMPLES  
ALL OVER.

WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO HER  
FACE?

SHE'S  
COMING  
ALONG.  
BUT...

A FEW DAYS  
LATER...

STREET MARKET



NICE  
GOING.

Heh



HOW MANY  
MISTAKES  
DID YOU  
MAKE TO  
LOOK LIKE  
THAT?



Shibazaki

Shibazaki

He laughed.

CHOCOLATE MAKES HER RED RESULT IN PINKIES AND WEIGHT GAIN.

CHOCOLATE.

Mmm

END

THAT'S THE  
DOWNSIDE  
OF HER  
SECRET  
TRAINING.

SHIBAZAKI  
TUTOR'S  
HER ON  
CATALOGING  
AND OTHER  
THINGS  
EVERY  
NIGHT.

FOR  
EVERY  
MISTAKE  
KASA-  
HARA  
MAKES...

...SHI-  
BAZAKI  
MAKES  
HER  
EAT A  
CHOCO-  
LATE.



A week later...

I WANT  
TO DO THIS  
LIBRARY'S  
REQUESTS.

LET ME  
BACK IN.

ALL  
RIGHT.

YOU'RE  
BACK  
IN.

Power  
pimples.

Yeah.

KONAKI  
TOLD  
ME.

W-HOW  
DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

NO MORE  
CHOCO-  
LATES?



SORRY  
ABOUT  
LAST  
WEEK,  
TEZUKA.



YES,  
SIR!

IF YOU  
CAN'T  
KEEP UP,  
YOU'RE OUT,  
OKAY?



IT'S NOT FAIR  
COMPARING  
ANYONE TO  
TEZUKA.

He's disciplined.

SHE'S GOT  
A LOT OF  
CATCHING UP  
TO DO.  
TEZUKA'S  
WAY AHEAD  
OF HER.

BUT AT  
LEAST SHE'S  
COMPETENT  
NOW.

That's  
lighter  
not  
bad



LET ME  
ASK YOU  
THIS,  
TESUKA.

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT TO  
HAPPEN?



SHE  
WAS  
HAND-  
PICKED  
FOR A  
REASON.



TESUKA.

WHYBE IT'S  
THE YOU  
GAVE HER  
A BREAK,  
EH?



SHE  
COULD'VE  
TRIED EARLIER,  
BUT SHE  
COULDN'T BE  
BOTHERED.

You're so young

I've got all the returns booked

YOU'RE TRYING TO JUSTIFY GETTING RID OF HER.

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT ABOUT YOUR COMPLAINTS, BUT IT'S NOT RIGHT TO ATTACK HER WITH THEM.

STAFF ONLY

MISSING BOOKS?

SO WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU?



THAT'S  
WEIRD...

YES.  
THERE ARE  
SOME BOOKS  
I JUST  
CAN'T FIND.

What should  
I do?



OKAY.  
MARK THEM AS  
MISSING AND  
RETURN TO THE DESK.

OH?

KOMAKI  
BROUGHT  
THIS UP  
BEFORE.

...



I'VE GOT  
PAPERWORK  
TO TAKE  
CARE OF.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

YOU  
CAN  
GO.

THEY'LL  
DO THE  
REST.



Um  
IF YOU  
DON'T  
MIND.

Only if

OH.



I'LL  
HELP  
YOU.



I just  
want to  
be near  
him.





I just want to be helpful.

THIS FILE BELONGS ON THE TOP SHELF.

It doesn't matter anything.



YOU CAN'T REACH UP THERE. PUT IT ON THE SECOND SH-

That's all.

ARE YOU MAD AT ME?!

For what?

GO HOME...

Just leave





☆ BONUS MANGA ☆





**YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWING ME IN HERE!**



W.C.





I...

I DIDN'T  
WANT  
TO BE  
ALONE...



KONK!  
WAS  
PULLING  
YOUR  
LEG.

EEK

LATER...

THERE'S  
NO SUCH  
THING AS  
GHOSTS.



SIR...

HT

HT

I'LL  
WALK YOU  
TO THE  
DORM.



**NEVERMIND...**

KOMAKI,  
DON'T  
PUSH  
IT...

There's  
no way I'm  
watching  
that video!

The  
video  
ghost  
had a  
glorious  
face!

THEY WERE  
CAUGHT  
ON THE  
SECURITY  
CAMERA.

A GHOST  
COUPLE WAS  
SIGHTED  
FLIRTING IN  
FRONT OF  
THE REST-  
ROOMS.

**THE END**

# Message from Hiro Arikawa

When we first saw Ms. Yumi's artwork, we instantly knew we had the right artist. She captured the right essence for every character. The manga is based on the original novels, but she brought a fresh perspective to it. I mean, my editor and I should be the ones most familiar with the series, but I was surprised by a lot of things.

I got to enjoy the first volume before anyone else, even the readers. Ms. Yumi reorganized the whole plot after thoroughly reading all the novels. So her version is really exciting for me to read. As the original author, I know where the story is going, but Ms. Yumi keeps it fresh and unpredictable. Sometimes she's bold, but the story never loses its consistency, which requires a perfect grasp of the plot.

I wondered how she did it, and then I heard she liked watching movies. I see a lot of movies, old and new. So I know that writing a novel is very close to building tension in a movie. Manga artists know this too.

Keiichi Shibusawa from Mediaworks bought the *LaLa* issue with the first chapter. He said he loved every minute of it! Even though it wasn't my work, I was so thrilled to hear that.

Mr. Shibusawa said, "I like Dojo's duality. He's harsh to Iku but actually cares about her."

"Really? You don't mean Iku?! She's like that too."

"It's Dojo! I'm going to subscribe to *LaLa* for Dojo! There're several other manga series I want to follow too."

So he added *LaLa* to his reading list. I'm sure he keeps up with *Library Wars: Love & War*.

Ms. Yumi. I am looking forward to seeing how you're going to surprise me!



Hiroshi Arikawa

# Special Thanks!!!

Ms. Arikawa  
Ms. Arikawa's Editors (Mentorworks)

★  
Mamada, Murakami

★  
Oetaka, Ogata, Seita,  
Tanaka, Nanaka,  
Horiyama, Masuko

★  
My family

★  
My editor

★  
★  
★  
Readers

I cannot thank you enough.

The fact that  
I'm flabby all  
over makes me  
obtain even  
more.

This may seem  
unexpected,  
but I like  
muscles.



So it was fun  
working on  
chapter 3  
where we see  
lots of skin...



But

But I  
can't  
make  
solders  
look  
perky

Wait a  
minute.  
This is  
a shap  
manga

The many  
muscles  
might  
make girls  
flush...



I settled  
for toned,  
not ripped

Sketch

Thanks,  
Captain!

Hope to see you in  
the next volume.

Kira Yano *Yano*





**Page 10, panel 1: Seika 31**

In Japan, years are often identified by era rather than the Western calendar. For example, 2010 is Heisei 22, or the 22nd year of the reign of the emperor Akihito. Seika is a fictional era name placed in the near future.

**Page 10, panel 1: Kanto**

A region of Japan that includes Tokyo.

**Page 15, panel 1: Musashino**

A suburb of Tokyo.

**Page 17, panel 2: Army**

The armed forces of Japan are actually called the SDF, or Self-Defense Forces, and until recently were only active in Japan and not deployed abroad.

**Page 24, panel 1: Udo Hishigi**

The most powerful artstyle in various martial arts, including judo.

**Page 127, panel 2: Honshu, moon bear**

Honshu is the largest and main Japanese island. Black Asiatic bears (*Ursus thibetanus*) are also called "moon bears" because of the white crescent-shaped marking on their chests.

**Page 150, panel 1: Japanese Decimal System**

The Nippon Decimal System or Nippon Decimal Classification is based on the Dewey Decimal System.

**Page 154, panel 6: A summer night**

Summer is a popular time for ghost stories in Japan.



Kiira Tani won the 42nd LaLa Manga Grand Prix Fresh Debut award for her manga *Silly Baccan as Twintail* (Little Billy's Depression). Her latest series is *Toshokan Sensei Love@War* (Library Wars: Love @ War), which runs in LaLa magazine in Japan and is published in English by VIZ Media.

Hiro Arikawa won the 10th Dengeki Novel Prize for her work *Sino no Machi With us My Precious* in 2003, and debuted with the same novel in 2004. Of her many works, Arikawa is best known for the *Library Wars* series and her *Jettai Sanbansoku* trilogy which consists of *Sora no Moku* (In the Sky), *Umi no Soko* (The Bottom of the Sea), and *Shio no Machi* (City of Salt).

# library wars

Volume 1  
Shojo Beat Edition

Story & Art by **Kiino Yuni**  
Original Concept by **Hiro Arakawa**

ENGLISH TRANSLATION & ADAPTATION Kinoko Watabe  
TOUCH-UP ART & LETTERING Sean McCoy  
DESIGN Courtney Un  
EDITOR Pencha Diaz

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**PARENTAL ADVISORY**

DESCRIPTORS: SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN AND IS RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 14 AND UP. This volume contains violence.

via English, vici, vici



# Library Wars

Love & War



In the near future, the federal government creates a committee to rid society of books it deems unsuitable. The libraries vow to protect their collections, and with the help of local governments, form a military group to defend themselves—the Library Force!

Ryu Koshara has dreamed of joining the Library Defense Force ever since one of its soldiers stepped in to protect her favorite book from being confiscated in a bookstore when she was younger. But now that she's finally a recruit, she's finding her dream job to be a bit of a nightmare. Especially since her hard-hearted drill instructor seems to have it in for her!

Shojo  
Beat

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from right to left.



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